

CURRENT STATUS OF CLAIMS

Please cancel Claims 7-13, 15-23, and 24-41 without prejudice or disclaimer. These claims are being canceled, with traverse, pursuant to a restriction election and Applicants reserve the right to assert these claims in any future divisional, continuation, or continuation-in-part applications.

Please find the current status of the claims, as of the filing of this amendment paper, as follows:

1. (Original) A method for trading in gas, said method providing:
obtaining storage rights to at least a portion of one or more shallow depth underground salt formation storage facilities operating at pressures averaging 20 to 80 bars;
making short term trades related to gas; and
selectively utilizing said one or more shallow depth underground salt formation storage facilities by receiving gas into or providing gas out of said one or more shallow depth underground salt formation storage facilities.
2. (Original) The method of Claim 1, wherein said short term is less than 24 hours.
3. (Original) The method of Claim 2, wherein said short term is less than 12 hours.
4. (Original) The method of Claim 3, wherein said short term is less than 6 hours.
5. (Original) The method of Claim 4, wherein said short term is less than one hour.
6. (Original) The method of Claim 5, wherein said short term is less than thirty minutes.
- 7-13 (Canceled)
14. (Original) A system operable for use in short term trading in gas, said system comprising:
at least one shallow depth underground salt formation storage facility;
access to a trading system operable for making trades related to gas; and

a gas facility computer system operable for controlling gas flow into and out of said at least one shallow depth underground salt formation storage facility on a short term basis.

15-41 (Canceled)